

Appl. No. 10/617,575
Amdt. Dated June 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 2, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cable assembly comprising:
an insulating housing defining a plurality of cavities;
a plurality of contacts received in corresponding cavities of the housing, each contact comprising an intermediate portion, a central contact beam extending from one end of the intermediate portion and being deflectable relative to the intermediate portion along a first direction, a pair of side contact beams extending from two opposite sides of the intermediate portion and being deflectable relative to the intermediate portion along a second direction different from the first direction and a tail portion extending from an opposite end of the intermediate portion; and
a plurality of cables terminated to the tail portions of corresponding contacts.

Claim 2 (original): The cable assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the central contact beam comprises a first spring arm extending upwardly and rearwardly from the intermediate portion and a second spring arm extending forwardly and downwardly from the first spring arm and having a free end for abutting against the intermediate portion.

Claim 3 (original): The cable assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first

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spring arm has a first curved portion connecting with the one end of the intermediate portion and a second curved portion connecting with the second spring arm for contacting with a complementary contact.

Claim 4 (original): The cable assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein the side contact beams are located between the first and the second curved portions of the central contact beam along a longitudinal direction of the contact.

Claim 5 (original): The cable assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein the side contact beams comprise a pair of vertical arms located at opposite sides of the first spring arm and a pair of resilient side arms extending rearwardly from the vertical arms and having connecting portions extending toward each other.

Claim 6 (original): The cable assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the second curved portion of the first spring arm extends rearwardly beyond the connecting portions of the resilient side arms.

Claim 7 (original): The cable assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the side contact beams comprise a pair of vertical arms located at opposite sides of the central contact beam and a pair of resilient side arms extending rearwardly from the vertical arms and having connecting portions extending toward each other.

Claim 8 (original): The cable assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein the housing defines a pair of slits communicating with the cavity, the slits receiving opposite side edges of the intermediate portion therein.

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Claim 9 (original): The cable assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein the housing defines a slot extending through a front face while not extending through a bottom face thereof, the slot communicating with the cavity, and the intermediate portion of the contact comprises a tab received in the slot.

Claim 10 (original): The cable assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein the cable includes an inner conductive core and an outer insulator surrounding the inner conductive core, the cable having an exposed conductive core at one end thereof, and wherein the tail portion comprises two pairs of gripping wings respectively crimped onto the exposed conductive core and the insulator.

Claim 11 (original): The cable assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the housing is formed with a plurality of latching bosses on a top thereof for being received in a corresponding latching slot of a complementary connector.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An electrical contact for use in an electrical connector, comprising:

an intermediate portion;
a central contact beam extending from one end of the intermediate portion and being deflectable relative to the intermediate portion along a first direction;
a pair of side contact beams extending from two opposite sides of the intermediate portion and being deflectable relative to the intermediate portion along a second direction different from the first direction; and
a tail portion extending from an opposite end of the intermediate portion.

Claim 13 (original): The electrical contact as claimed in claim 12, wherein the

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side contact beams comprise a pair of vertical arms located at opposite sides of the central contact beam and a pair of resilient side arms extending rearwardly from the vertical arms and having connecting portions extending toward each other.

Claim 14 (original): The electrical contact as claimed in claim 13, wherein the central contact beam comprises a first spring arm extending upwardly and rearwardly from the intermediate portion and a second spring arm extending forwardly and downwardly from the first spring arm and having a free end to abut against the intermediate portion.

Claim 15 (original): The electrical contact as claimed in claim 14, wherein the first spring arm has a first curved portion connecting with the one end of the intermediate portion and a second curved portion connecting with the second spring arm.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An electrical contact assembly comprising:
a cable defining a conductive core;
a contact including:
an intermediate portion with a retention device thereon for engagement within a passageway of a housing;
a tail portion extending from a rear end section of the intermediate portion and secured to the cable;
a central contact beam extending from a front end section of the intermediate portion in a slanted manner away from the intermediate portion, the central contact beam being deflectable relative to the intermediate portion along a first direction;
and

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a pair of side contact beams being discrete from said central contact beam but located by two sides of said central contact beam and further above said central contact beam opposite to said intermediate portion, each of said pair of side contact beams being deflectable relative to the intermediate portion along a second direction different from the first direction.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (original): The contact assembly as claimed in claim 17 16, wherein said second direction is perpendicular to said first direction.